

Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

SB 118
Supporting

Dear Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Finance Committee,

I work at the University of Maryland in a 20 hour/week position through the office of student activities, which actively promotes student well-being on campus by providing programs and services that bring together the campus community. Through this position, I am afforded a graduate stipend of \$28,000, which does not cover basic living expenses in the college park area, nor the large majority of the DC-metro area. However, this part-time work is needed in order to compensate for daily expenses that I accrue as a student, which I am pursuing to better the education systems in our country that will lead to economic and social development. However - the question is posed - why is it made so difficult to do so? Shouldn't our country and state want to incentivize students? Isn't this how a society develops? Simple changes such as recognizing employee's rights such as this measure are part of the incremental process that will pave the way towards equitable development. I implore you to support collective bargaining rights for student workers as it supports students, our community, and state.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Haavik
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